

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claim 49.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material;
electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall providing a single desired uniform alignment to a liquid crystal director, said alignment selected from the group consisting of planar, tilted and homeotropic;
wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a photoresist material and a plastics material, and which are shaped and oriented to produce the desired alignment.

2. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said posts have a height in the range of about 0.5 to 5 μm .

3. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said posts have a height in the range of about 1.0 to 1.2 μm .

4. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least part of a side wall of said posts is tilted with respect to the normal to the plane of the first cell wall.

5. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each post has a width in the range of about 0.2 to 3 μm .

6. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said posts are spaced from about 0.1 to 5 μm apart from each other.

7. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal material contains a surfactant.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said posts are of at least one of a different height, different shape, different tilt and different orientation in different regions of the device.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A cell wall for use in manufacturing a liquid crystal device, comprising a wall structure having a surface alignment structure on a surface thereof, for providing a single desired uniform alignment to ~~said~~ a liquid crystal director,
wherein said alignment is selected from the group consisting of planar, tilted and homeotropic.

wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a photoresist material and a plastics material, and which are shaped and oriented to produce the desired alignment.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a cell wall, comprising applying a photoresist material to a surface of a wall structure, exposing the applied photoresist material to a suitable light source through a suitably patterned mask, removing soluble photoresist, and hardening the exposed photoresist material to produce a two dimensional array of alignment posts on said wall structure which are shaped and oriented to produce a single desired alignment in a liquid crystal director when in contact with a liquid crystal material.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a cell wall for use in a liquid crystal device, comprising applying a plastics material to a surface of a wall structure, and embossing a two dimensional array of alignment posts into said plastics material to produce a two dimensional array of alignment posts on said wall structure which are shaped and oriented to produce a single desired alignment in a liquid crystal director when in contact with a liquid crystal material.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device, comprising:
securing a first cell wall to a second cell wall, so as to produce a cell having spaced apart cell walls;
filling the cell with a liquid crystal material, and sealing the cell;
wherein one or both of said first cell wall and said second cell wall have at least one electrode structure thereon so that said liquid crystal device has electrode structures for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material;
wherein said first cell wall comprises a wall structure and a two dimensional array of alignment posts on one surface thereof which are shaped and oriented to provide a single desired alignment to a director of said liquid crystal director, wherein said first cell wall is manufactured by a method comprising applying a plastics material to the surface of a wall, and embossing said two dimensional array of alignment posts into said plastics material.

15. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material; electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall providing at least one of a desired homeotropic or tilted homeotropic alignment to a liquid crystal director;

wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are at least one of shaped and orientated to produce the desired alignment.

16. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said posts have a height that is at least equal to the average spacing between said posts.

17. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least part of a side wall of said posts is tilted with respect to the normal to the plane of said first cell wall.

18. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material;
electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall providing a desired alignment to a liquid crystal director in a single azimuthal direction;
wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of upstanding alignment posts which are at least one of shaped and orientated to produce the desired alignment.

19. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the posts are tilted with respect to the normal of the plane of the first cell wall.

20. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein each post comprises a discrete structure.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material;

electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall providing desired alignments to a liquid crystal director in at least three azimuthal directions;
wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are at least one of shaped and orientated to produce the desired alignments.

23. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material;
electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall providing a single desired alignment to a liquid crystal director;
wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are shaped and/or oriented to produce the desired alignment; but not including any device in which said posts are treated with or formed from a material which will induce local homeotropic alignment in the liquid crystal material.

24. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alignment posts have a square cross section.

25. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alignment posts have a round cross section.

26. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alignment posts have a triangular cross section.

27. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alignment posts have an oval cross section.

28. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal material is a nematic liquid crystal.

29. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising one or more spacer posts, said one or more spacer posts spanning the entire cell.

30. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 15, further comprising one or more spacer posts, said one or more spacer posts spanning the entire cell.

31. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 18, further comprising one or more spacer posts, said one or more spacer posts spanning the entire cell.

32. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 22, further comprising one or more spacer posts, said one or more spacer posts spanning the entire cell.

33. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 23, further comprising one or more spacer posts, said one or more spacer posts spanning the entire cell.

34. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material;
electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall
providing a single desired uniform alignment to a liquid crystal director, said alignment selected from the group consisting of planar, tilted and homeotropic;
wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are shaped and oriented to produce the desired alignment, and which have a height in the range of about 0.5 to 5 μm .

35. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said posts have a height in the range of about 1.0 to 1.2 μm .

36. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein at least part of a side wall of said posts is tilted with respect to the normal to the plane of the first cell wall.

37. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein each post has a width in the range of about 0.2 to 3 μm .

38. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said posts are spaced from about 0.1 to 5 μm apart from each other.

39. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said posts are formed from a photoresist or a plastics material.

40. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the liquid crystal material contains a surfactant.

41. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said posts are of at least one of a different height, different shape, different tilt and different orientation in different regions of the device.

42. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said alignment posts have a square cross section.

43. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said alignment posts have a round cross section.

44. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said alignment posts have a triangular cross section.

45. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said alignment posts have an oval cross section.

46. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said liquid crystal material is a nematic liquid crystal.

47. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, further comprising one or more spacer posts, said one or more spacer posts spanning the entire cell.

48. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal device comprising:
a first cell wall and a second cell wall enclosing a layer of liquid crystal material;
electrodes for applying an electric field across at least some of said liquid crystal material; and
a surface alignment structure on the inner surface of at least said first cell wall providing a single desired uniform alignment to a liquid crystal director, said alignment selected from the group consisting of planar, tilted and homeotropic;
wherein said surface alignment structure comprises a two dimensional array of alignment posts which are formed from a photoresist or a plastics material, which are shaped and oriented to produce the desired alignment, and which have a height in the range of about 0.5 to 5 μm .

49. (New) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said posts are not treated with or formed from a material which will induce local homeotropic alignment in the liquid crystal material.